

II.—*Birds in the North of France, 1917–18.*

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DURING the thirteen months from March 1917 to March 1918 I kept fairly careful notes of the birds I saw in France. Practically the whole of this time was spent in the Departments Pas de Calais, Somme, and Nord. Naturally it is difficult for an infantry officer to stay in one spot for any considerable length of time, and notes taken in this way are somewhat disjointed and necessarily quite incomplete. Between March and September 1917 we went up the river Somme to Péronne, east of that town to Roisel and Epéhy, north to Villers Pluich and Havrincourt Wood, and finally were in a reserve area at Achiet le Grand near Bapaume. I was then fortunate enough (from an ornithological point of view) to spend just over four weeks of October and November at the base at Etaples, where the river Canche forms a short muddy estuary and a fair variety of birds occurs, and where I had previously spent a day in May; from November to March 1918 I was in the line in the La Bassée sector, east of Béthune, and in reserve in that area; and finally returned to the neighbourhood of Bapaume during the German offensive at the end of March. I also include notes on the birds seen during a very short stay in France at the end of July and early in August, 1918.

Going up the river Somme in March, just before the first German evacuation of Péronne, we found the country between Eclusier and Péronne (the scene of part of the early stages of the first Somme offensive) remarkably desolate; buntings were by far the commonest birds—yellow-hammers in great numbers and common buntings—with many larks of two species and flocks of linnets, but there was little else except hooded crows and odd sparrow-hawks: a very few of the familiar garden birds still clung to the flattened villages—odd wrens, etc., but the house-sparrow seemed to be the only bird that felt really at home.

Following the retreating Germans from Péronne to the

east, we found the villages (with rare exceptions) entirely destroyed, and here again a few of the village birds still about the ruined houses; in the fields of this area the ordinary birds of the season were plentiful and unconcerned. When the summer migrants arrived they returned to their old haunts in the half-felled orchards and the ruined houses, and nested quite happily; swallows were going in and out of the derelict houses within four days of their first appearance, and nested in large numbers under almost any shelter; nightingales and other warblers were not uncommon in woods and copses actually in the firing-line; corn-crakes and quail were plentiful in the long hay-grass growing round the front-line trenches of this part of Somme.

In the following winter (1917-18) in old-established trenches in the La Bassée sector, which was at that time a quiet part of the line, quite a number of species were to be seen daily actually in and about the trenches in Givenchy and the Brickstacks and in No Man's Land: partridges were common and many finches and pipits, while small flocks of tree-sparrows were frequently seen on the wire in front of the craters, which divided the German line from ours.

After the great spring and autumn migrations of Gallipoli and Egypt, the movements in France were bound to seem comparatively uninteresting, and the only really noticeably great one was that of the hooded crows on the coast in October, though a number of quite interesting birds of passage were seen, and an evident migration of such birds as song-thrushes, robins, etc.,—some presumably from England—reached the coast towards the end of October.

In the spring the river Somme south of Péronne, where it runs north and south, seemed to be the route by which many migrants entered Flanders, and large gatherings of swallows were to be seen there. In the autumn, while near Bapaume, I noticed, on the other hand, that all the swallows and martins were moving from east to west, possibly turning south into a river-valley later on; here a few birds of passage not seen during the summer, such as wheatears, blue-headed wagtails, and pied flycatchers, lingered for a short time.

An early passage of a good number of species was noticed on 28 February, 1917, on our way from Egypt to France, a few hours after we had passed to the north-east through the straits of Messina; many small birds came on board the boat: stonechats, redbreasts, song-thrushes, chaffinches, skylarks, pipits, white wagtails, etc.; but in the north of France the weather was cold until mid-April and nothing of interest happened till then, when the summer migrants began to arrive.

The very severe winter of 1916-17 no doubt reduced the numbers of many species in France as it did in England; I did not see a single fieldfare in France, and redwings were not at all abundant, and probably the absence or comparative scarcity of a number of species of resident birds is to be accounted for in the same way.

I have seen nothing of numbers of species which other observers have found so common in other parts of the line or in the same parts in different seasons: owls, for example, which others have seen so commonly, I failed to find; the same holds good of a number of water-birds, as I only occasionally visited the river Somme and its floods, where duck gather in large numbers in the winter; similarly I never saw the large flights of geese reported from some parts in late autumn.

The period covered is from March 1917 to March 1918, so that except for the month of March the year of an observation is not given. I have added also a few observations made in July and August, 1918. The nomenclature used is that of the B.O.U. list, 1915.

**Corvus corone.** Carrion-Crow.

Fairly common in Somme. In October and November they were frequently to be seen in the Canche estuary and on the sand-dunes at Etaples with the hooded crows and rooks.

**Corvus cornix.** Hooded Crow.

Throughout March 1917 very common in the area of the Somme battle and in some numbers round Péronne during

April; the last I saw were two at Brie on 26 April, which attacked a marsh-harrier. In the autumn I first saw one in the Canche estuary on 14 October; day by day its numbers increased, and there were soon many hundreds all over the sand-banks and the sand-dunes near by.

A common bird in the La Bassée sector in winter and often about the firing-line. During February, fully 300 came to roost at night in some poplars at Le Préal, near Béthune.

***Corvus monedula.* Jackdaw.**

Fairly common in many places, though I have no note of its occurrence in Somme east of Péronne. In October occasionally seen in the Canche estuary with the flocks of hooded crows and rooks; possibly these were birds of passage.

***Corvus frugilegus.* Rook.**

Common throughout. I saw a very large flock in March 1917 in the devastated Somme area; in October, numbers (probably immigrants) with hooded and carrion crows on the Canche estuary marshes.

***Pica pica.* Magpie.**

In remarkable numbers everywhere. In parts of Somme, where most of the large trees had been felled, they nested in quite small trees. I saw them about the firing-line at Givenchy.

***Garrulus glandarius.* Jay.**

Fairly common in all woods I visited. On 14 October at Etaples there was a number in a small wood where I did not see them before or afterwards—possibly a bunch of immigrants.

***Sturnus vulgaris.* Starling.**

Common. Nested in the ruined houses at Bertincourt. Many big flocks in winter. They had a "roost" at Le Préal, near Béthune.

**Oriolus oriolus.** Golden Oriole.

Fairly common in June in Havrincourt Wood and other woods in that area, where its beautiful whistle could be frequently heard near the firing-line.

I found a nest in an alder near the Somme at Flixecourt, near Amiens.

**Chloris chloris.** Greenfinch.

Common everywhere. In flocks at the end of August with house-sparrows at Achiet le Grand; in October with linnets in the Canche estuary; and with chaffinches and bramblings in December in the firing-line at Givenchy.

**Carduelis carduelis.** Continental Goldfinch.

Not uncommon in Somme, where I saw a "charm" of a dozen near Péronne early in April, and others about Péronne chateau or citadel, in a Roisel orchard; common near Amiens.

**Passer domesticus.** House-Sparrow.

Very abundant in most places and common in the demolished Somme villages, and often about the trenches. In big finch-flocks at Achiet le Grand in August, and in the Canche estuary in October.

In June they were always common about the trenches in front of Havrincourt Wood, among the felled timber where the wood had previously extended—possibly they were getting some insect food; there was no house within a mile.

**Passer montanus.** Tree-Sparrow.

A common bird almost everywhere—far commoner than in England. On 19 October and for the fortnight following, there was a big flock of some hundreds on some rough ground at Etaples, with several other species of finches.

It was one of the birds actually in the trenches at Givenchy, and a small flock was often to be seen on our wire in front of the craters both north and south of the La Bassée Canal.

**Fringilla cœlebs.** Chaffinch.

Very common, though in one or two villages such as Epéhy and Achiet le Grand they were scarce. In some villages there were few suitable nesting-sites left, and at Bertincourt a nest was built in a dead laurel. During the last fortnight of October and early in November, many hundreds were in a finch-flock on some rough ground at Etaples and also among the marsh weeds in the Canche estuary. In December in the firing-line at Givenchy.

**Fringilla montifringilla.** Brambling.

First seen on 19 October in a finch-flock at Etaples, and commonly for the next three or four weeks there and among the marsh weeds of the Canche estuary at low tide; on 27 December a few were feeding on the weeds growing through the snow with a number of chaffinches and greenfinches—just behind the firing-line trench at Givenchy.

Last seen in March 1918 in Somme.

**Acanthis cannabina.** Linnet.

Common everywhere. Great flocks in the wasted area west of Péronne in March 1917; in April a small flock of a few score was always on or about a derelict clump of telegraph-wires at Epéhy where shells fell not infrequently. In May I found a nest in a box-bush at Roisel. By 4 September it was flocking in bunches of 50 or so at Achiet le Petit, and from 15 October for a month was in many hundreds on rough ground at Etaples with other finches; it was specially fond of the marsh weeds in the Canche estuary at low tide.

A few in the Givenchy firing-line at the end of the year.

**Emberiza calandra.** Corn-Bunting.

Fairly common in Somme, especially in the wasted area west of Péronne in March 1917. In May it was commonly seen and heard on the wire in front of our trenches at Villers Pluich and Beaucamp, and was evidently nesting hard by. Very common at Hébuterne in early August 1918 in the waste ground round the trenches.

**Emberiza citrinella.** Yellow-hammer.

An abundant bird everywhere, especially in the devastated parts; often in the firing-line at Villers Pluich and Havrin-court.

**Emberiza cirius.** Cirl Bunting.

A fairly common species throughout Somme, and often seen about the ruined villages such as Villers Faucon, Trescault (just behind the firing-line). Also seen occasionally near Béthune.

**Emberiza schœniclus.** Reed-Bunting.

Strangely few seen: 25 March, 1917, four at Eclusier; April, a few at Brie; July, a few at Flixecourt near Amiens; all these places are on the river Somme.

**Alauda arvensis.** Sky-Lark.

Very common everywhere. In October and November common among the marsh weeds in the Canche estuary at low tide.

**Lullula arborea.** Wood-Lark.

On 21 October I saw two on some rough ground at Etaples.

**Galerida cristata.** Crested Lark.

Common everywhere, from the coast to the firing-line, but its distribution was a trifle more "patchy" than that of the sky-lark.

The French birds seemed rather more slaty in colour than those seen on the sand in Egypt, and even than those in Gallipoli.

**Otocorys alpestris.** Shore-Lark.

On 5 November seven birds were feeding along the high-water mark at the mouth of the river Canche near Paris Plage.

**Motacilla alba.** White Wagtail.

Fairly common wherever I went from April to October. Towards the end of April they were in company with the

newly arrived yellow and blue-headed wagtails, and in mid-October in small flocks in the Canche estuary with occasional pied wagtails. Several round the Canche estuary at the end of July 1918.

**Motacilla lugubris.** Pied Wagtail.

First seen on 15 October in the Canche estuary; a few, and occasionally a small flock there for the next four weeks. A cock bird at Fouquières near Béthune on 19 February.

**Motacilla boarula.** Grey Wagtail.

A few in winter: in March 1917, near Pont Rémy on the Somme; in November on the cliffs at Wimereux near Boulogne; not uncommon near Béthune, where I saw it at Moat Farm (one of the keeps at Givenchy), at "Windy Corner," Le Plantin, and in other places.

**Motacilla raii.** Yellow Wagtail.

Passing at Brie on the Somme in fair numbers with blue-headed Wagtails from 20 to 27 April; on the last date *M. flava* outnumbered them by ten to one. On 30 July, 1918, I saw a hen by the Canche estuary which I think was certainly of this species; it had a yellowish eye-stripe.

**Motacilla flava.** Blue-headed Wagtail.

From 20 to 27 April passing at Brie in large numbers; between thirty and thirty-five on 4 September at Achiet le Petit. I did not see one bird during the summer.

**Anthus trivialis.** Tree-Pipit.

First seen, half-a-dozen in number, on 17 April at Péronne citadel; common in Havrincourt Wood in June; a few near Amiens in July.

**Anthus pratensis.** Meadow-Pipit.

A few seen near Péronne in April, but none east of that. Common at Rouen and Etaples in October, and at Le Touquet in May. In December not uncommon about the Givenchy fringing-line and in the district round Béthune during the winter.



**Anthus petrosus** (? sub-spec.). Rock-Pipit.

A number about the Canche estuary in October and November.

**Certhia familiaris**. Tree-Creeper.

Only seen rarely in the Touquet woods near Paris Plage, in October and November.

**Regulus regulus**. Gold-crest.

Possibly this was one of the species that had suffered by the 1916-17 winter. Not often seen: three in the Bois de Tailloux, Hamel, on the Somme, 21 March, 1917; a few in Rouen, 30 September; common in the Forêt d'Hardelot, near Boulogne, on 4 November.

**Parus major**. Continental Great Titmouse.

Usually very common—the commonest of the tits. It was one of the birds seen in the trenches among the ruins of Givenchy village in December.

**Parus palustris**. Continental Marsh-Titmouse.

Fairly common in the Bois de Bailleul, near Pont-Rémy, March 1917; not uncommon in the Le Touquet woods, the Forêt d'Hardelot, at Etaples, etc., in November, and in Adinfer Wood, south of Arras, in March 1918. I did not see anything that appeared to be *P. borealis*.

**Parus cæruleus**. Continental Blue Titmouse.

Fairly common everywhere.

**Ægithalus caudatus roseus**. British Long-tailed Titmouse.

On 14 October, two in the Le Touquet woods near Paris Plage with other species of tits.

**Lanius excubitor**. Great Grey Shrike.

On 21 February near Béthune and 25 February at Annequin, not far from the first locality; almost certainly two birds seen at Catelet near Cartigny on 20 April, 1917, were of this species, but I cannot say so definitely.

**Lanius collurio.** Red-backed Shrike.

Three birds, one of which was an adult cock and another a young bird with a downy head, at Etaples on 31 July, 1918. To my surprise, I never saw this species elsewhere.

**Lanius senator.** Woodchat.

On 2 and 3 June at Ytres near Bertincourt (not far from Bapaume), in the "Little Wood" and a meadow outside the village. An adult with two young birds on 3 August, 1918, at Halloy near Doullens.

**Sylvia communis.** Whitethroat.

Common in the east of Somme in all places I visited in summer, and also near Amiens. Last seen at Achiet le Petit on 4 September.

**Sylvia simplex.** Garden-Warbler.

Common in summer in Roisel, Epéchy, Havrincourt Wood, and other places in the east of Somme.

**Sylvia atricapilla.** Blackcap.

Several in an orchard at Roisel on 18 May.

**Acrocephalus streperus.** Reed-Warbler.

A few by the Somme at Flixecourt near Amiens in July, but not nearly so plentiful as the great reed-warbler.

**Acrocephalus arundinaceus.** Great Reed-Warbler.

Common by the Somme at Flixecourt in July.

**Acrocephalus schœnobæus.** Sedge-Warbler.

Several at Péroune in May; at Flixecourt in mid-July. Probably not uncommon in some parts, but I was not in very suitable country during the summer.

**Hypolais icterina.** Icterine Warbler.

Common in the battered villages in the east of Somme, such as Ecquancourt, Villers Pluich, Treseault, Bertincourt, in May and June. On 25 May I watched a pair building in a lilac bush in Villers Pluich, but the place got a bad pounding on the same evening and the nest was

probably destroyed, as it was only a very short distance behind the firing-line.

Not uncommon at Flixecourt near Amiens, where I found a nest on 1 July, on the branch of a tiny poplar; the young were hatching on 15 July. Still singing in early August 1918 round Doullens.

**Phylloscopus trochilus.** Willow-Warbler.

First heard at Brie on 22 April; its numbers increased greatly in two days, but it did not seem at all common during the summer, during which I only heard occasional birds singing in Havrincourt Wood and Trescault. Last seen in Achiet le Grand, 3 September.

**Phylloscopus collybita.** Chiffchaff.

First heard at Brie as late as 22 April; common in Havrincourt Wood and that district generally, and near Amiens in the summer. Singing on 18 September at Achiet le Grand and in Rouen on 26 and 27 September.

A single bird on 21 October in the scrub by the Canche estuary with migrant thrushes.

**Turdus viscivorus.** Missel-Thrush.

Fairly common in all parts. At the end of August and early in September there was a flock numbering several score in and about Logeast Wood near Achiet le Grand.

**Turdus musicus.** Continental Song-Thrush, [and? *Turdus musicus clarkei*—British Song-Thrush].

Distinctly uncommon. Except for immigrant birds seen or heard only in four places: in Havrincourt Wood in June; at Flixecourt, near Amiens, in July; at Fouquereuil near Béthune, and in Adinfer Wood south of Arras, in March 1918, and possibly those in the last two places were on passage. On 21 October there were many very wild birds in the scrub and a little copse on the sand-dunes on the north side of the Canche estuary, but during the week following only odd birds remained; on 9 November there were a number in the Le Touquet Woods on the other side of the estuary. On 12 January one bird in a flock of redwings and blackbirds at Gorre, near Béthune.

***Turdus iliacus.* Redwing.**

First heard on 4 November at Etaples, passing by night. A few seen on several occasions near Béthune in January and February.

***Turdus merula.* Blackbird.**

Common in all parts. Some in the winter were evidently immigrants and were seen with song-thrushes in the scrub on the sand-dunes by the Canche estuary, at Gorre with redwings, etc.

***Turdus torquatus.* Ring-Ouzel.**

One in the Le Touquet wood at the edge of the Canche estuary on 5 November with other migrant *Turdidæ*.

***Phœnicurus phœnicurus.* Redstart.**

A single bird on 10 September at Achiet le Grand was the only bird seen.

***Phœnicurus titys.* Black Redstart.**

Two birds first seen on the Péronne citadel on 7 April. Common in most of the Somme villages such as Herbécourt, Flaucourt, Villers Faucon, Achiet le Grand, Flixecourt, and about Haplincourt chateau on the Somme, opposite to Brie.

They returned freely to these destroyed villages, and at Bertincourt, in May, a pair reared a brood in a very public place in the Town Major's yard.

Last seen at Boisguillaume near Rouen on 30 September.

***Erithacus rubecula.* Continental Redbreast.**

Fairly common throughout, including such ruined villages as Epéhy; also seen about the trenches at Givenchy. Some among the scrub in the dunes by the Canche estuary with immigrant birds on 21 October.

***Erithacus rubecula melophilus.* British Redbreast.**

A number of very red-breasted birds presumably of this subspecies among the scrub by the Canche on 21 October with others of the Continental form.

*Luscinia megarhyncha.* Common Nightingale.

Very common in all the woods in the east of Somme such as Dessart Wood and Havrincourt Wood. In May a nightingale in Ossus Wood, our most advanced position near the St. Quentin Canal, sang particularly well when the machine-guns fired, as if in answer to them; these birds were common in the small copses of this area. Common in Le Touquet Woods.

*Saxicola rubicola.* Stonechat.

Not often seen: a few at Brie on the Somme in April; at Flixecourt, near Amiens, on 15 July; one among the trenches in Givenchy village on 27 December.

*Saxicola rubetra.* Whinchat.

Apparently very local: one at Ytres near Bertincourt on 28 May; common at Flixecourt, near Amiens, in July; a fair number passing at Achiet le Grand on 30 August.

Quite abundant in early August 1918 in the rough ground round Hébuterne.

*Œnanthe œnanthe.* Wheatear.

Rarely seen: once seen in summer at Bertincourt on 27 May; several passing at Achiet le Grand on 30 August, and one near Logeast Wood on 12 September; two passing at Rouen on 11 October. At the end of July 1918 not uncommon on the sandhills near Etaples, where it presumably breeds.

*Accentor modularis.* Hedge-Sparrow.

Common; still found in all the ruined villages in east of Somme; seen at Moat Farm, one of the keeps in the Givenchy trenches.

*Troglodytes troglodytes.* Wren.

Common in all parts; still in the flattened villages of the Somme offensive in March 1917 and in the destroyed villages in the east of Somme.

*Muscicapa grisola.* Spotted Flycatcher.

Not common: seen at Roisel in May, at Flixecourt near

Amiens. Last seen at Achiet le Grand on 1 September. Several in Halloy, near Doullens, in early August 1918.

*Muscicapa atricapilla.* Pied Flycatcher.

In autumn at Achiet le Grand: one on 31 August and three or four on 10 September.

*Hirundo rustica.* Swallow.

First seen at Péronne in scores on 16 April; on the 21st I saw them going in and out of ruins at Barleux and Flaucourt. The line of the river Somme seemed to be the route by which many came in spring, and at Brie on 22 April many passed up stream (which here runs north and south) all day against a north wind, and many hundreds roosted there in fluctuating numbers during the next three days.

A most abundant breeding bird in ruins, wooden huts, etc., and astonishingly tame; a pair in a room used as an officers' mess at Bertincourt nested and hatched out on a nail in a beam in the low roof and paid no heed to all the noise, tobacco smoke and candle-light at night. During September they passed Achiet le Grand going west. Last seen in the Canche estuary on 16 October.

*Delichon urbica.* Martin.

First seen at Péronne on 17 April. In fair numbers nesting in the ruined villages in the east of Somme, but not nearly so numerous as the swallows. Numbers passed west with swallows at Achiet le Grand in September.

*Riparia riparia.* Sand-Martin.

I saw strangely few: a colony at Bourdon, near Amiens, in July; otherwise only seen on 16 & 17 April at Péronne in fair numbers with swallows, and one with them on 2 September at Achiet le Grand going west. On 31 July, 1918, two flew west down the Canche at Etaples.

*Picus viridis.* Green Woodpecker.

Not uncommon in most woods except in the east of Somme; round Béthune in several places, including the

village of Gorre—not far from the line ; common in Adinfer Wood, south of Arras.

**Cuculus canorus.** Cuckoo.

Very common in Havrincourt Wood and that district generally. Last heard calling on 1 July near Amiens ; last seen on 1 September at Achiet le Petit (a young bird).

**Micropus apus.** Swift.

A few about the ruined villages such as Bertincourt and Trescault, but not really common. Fairly common near Etaples.

Last seen near Achiet le Grand in the first week of August.

[**Strix aluco.** Tawny Owl.

A brown owl flying at dusk over the firing-line in front of Havrincourt was presumably of this species and was the only one seen ; I never heard its hoot.]

**Circus æruginosus.** Marsh-Harrier.

At Brie on the river Somme, on 26 April, I was watching a fine cream-headed bird beating down stream over the big reed-beds, when it was attacked by two hoodies which drove it away up stream again ; after a hurried start it flapped and glided into the distance.

**Circus cyaneus.** Hen-Harrier.

One flying over some rough country at Catelet, near Cartigny, on 20 April.

**Circus pygargus.** Montagu's Harrier.

A pair at Flixecourt, near Amiens, on 5 July were the only birds I saw.

**Buteo ? sp.** Buzzard.

On 3 January one high over the Givenchy ridge which my companion at first took for an aeroplane ; on 16 March one high over Hiedigneul, near Béthune, well above some aeroplanes which were then some 1500 feet up.

*Accipiter nisus.* Sparrow-Hawk.

Not infrequently seen about the devastated area of the Somme battle; in various parts of Somme and round Béthune.

*Falco peregrinus.* Peregrine Falcon.

In October and November at Etaples and about the Canche estuary; on 9 November one flew from the big sandbank at the river's mouth carrying a black-headed gull in its talons—I picked up the gull's corpse later.

*Falco tinnunculus.* Kestrel.

Common everywhere: often seen over the firing-line near Havrincourt and Givenchy; particularly numerous in Adinfer Wood on 23 March, 1918.

*Sula bassana.* Gannet.

In December just off Boulogne.

*Tadorna tadorna.* Common Sheld-Duck.

A small number—from one to seven—in the Canche estuary in October and November. Two in the Canche estuary on 31 July, 1918.

*Anas boschas.* Mallard.

A few on the river Somme in spring and summer near Amiens, and at Eclusier and Bric. They were seen commonly by others in the wet country between Béthune and the line in winter.

*Mareca penelope.* Wigeon.

Four in the Canche estuary for several days in early November.

*Spatula clypeata.* Shoveler.

On 23 April five birds at St. Christ, and others at Bric on the river Somme.

*Nyroca ferina.* Pochard.

On 25 March, 1917, 200 birds at Cappy, and others at Eclusier on the river Somme.



**Nyroca fuligula.** Tufted Duck.

At the end of March, at Saily Laurette, Cappy, and Péronne on the river Somme—not more than twenty together.

**Ædemia nigra.** Common Scoter.

On 17 April three birds were on a flood by the river Somme on the south side of Péronne; four seen from the leave-boat on 11 May just outside Boulogne, and on 11 November many passing out at sea beyond Boulogne harbour.

**Ædemia fusca.** Velvet-Scoter.

One on 11 November close in at Boulogne.

**Mergus serrator.** Red-breasted Merganser.

On 10 November two flew up the channel of the Canche estuary at low tide.

**Ardea cinerea.** Heron.

Odd birds seen from time to time at various places on the river Somme, in the Canche estuary, near Bapaume and near Béthune. On 31 July, 1918, I saw seventeen on the Canche mudflats at low tide.

**Platalea leucorodia.** Spoonbill.

On 3 November a single bird at the mouth of the Canche, near Paris Plage; it flew to the sandbank in midstream and was driven off by the gulls there; later I saw it flying wildly across the sky chased by two gulls.

**Gallinago gallinago.** Snipe.

At Le Touquet by the Canche estuary in November. Not seen in many places apparently suitable.

**Tringa canutus.** Knot.

A flock of fourteen with four grey plovers in the Canche estuary on 16 October. I was surprised to see a chestnut-breasted bird among other waders in the Canche estuary on 28 July, 1918.

***Tringa minuta.*** Little Stint.

One in the Canche estuary with other waders on 27 October.

***Tringa alpina.*** Dunlin.

Common in small numbers in the Canche estuary in October and November; an increase in November to about 80 birds; on 30 July, 1918, three birds in breeding-plumage.

***Calidris arenaria.*** Sanderling.

One bird on 17 November with dunlins and ringed plovers in the Canche estuary.

***Machetes pugnax.*** Ruff.

On 28 July, 1918, I got a close view of a bird among a number of redshanks in the Canche estuary at Etaples.

***Totanus totanus.*** Redshank.

Remarkably few: two at Le Mesnil Bruntel, near the river Somme on 18 April, and four at Brie on 25 April; on 12 May, between 30 and 40 in the Canche estuary, but none there in the autumn; many there at the end of July 1918—about 40 together.

***Totanus hypoleucus.*** Common Sandpiper.

First seen at Brie on the river Somme on 27 April; in the Canche estuary on 12 May.

Many in the Canche estuary at the end of July 1918—as many as 20 together.

***Totanus ochropus.*** Green Sandpiper.

Two on 22 and 23 April by a pool at Brie, not far from the river.

***Limosa limosa.*** Black-tailed Godwit.

On 12 May a fine red bird in full plumage was feeding by a pool just at the wood's edge in the Canche estuary; it allowed us to approach within ten yards before it flew.

*Numenius arquata*. Curlew.

Common in the Canche estuary in October and November, and at the end of July 1918; there was a considerable increase at the end of October, and several hundreds were daily about in the salt weeds at low tide—probably not many more than 400.

*Numenius phaeopus*. Whimbrel.

A fair number in the Canche estuary on 12 May; in good numbers there as early as 28 and 31 July, 1918.

*Charadrius apricarius*. Golden Plover.

Heard at night on 13 April at St. Emilie, near Epéhy; and on the night of 30 July, 1918, passing over Etaples, flying south-west.

*Squatarola squatarola*. Grey Plover.

Four in the Canche estuary with some knots on 16 October.

*Ægialitis hiaticula*. Ringed Plover.

Small flocks in the Canche estuary in October and November—never more than a few score; on 31 July, 1918, three birds about some rough sandy ground a few hundred yards north of the Canche estuary and near the railway.

*Vanellus vanellus*. Lapwing.

An uncommon bird, only seen at migration time: a flock in March 1917 at Pontrémy near Abbéville; one bird at Le Mesnil Bruntel near Péronne on 18 April; in the late autumn 40 or 50 in the Canche estuary on 16 and 17 November; in March 1918, flocks at Adinfer on the 23rd, and at Sarpignies, near Bapaume, flying over during the battle on the 25th.

Captain Dunkerley of No. 2 Squadron, R.F.C., tells me that about 9 March, 1918, he ran into a flock of what were evidently lapwings flying north at a height of 6500 feet over the line at Hulluch near Lens. All pilots and men in observation balloons that I have questioned agree that they rarely see birds at a height of more than 3000 feet.

**Hæmatopus ostralegus.** Oyster-Catcher.

Flocks in number between ten and twenty frequently seen in the Canche estuary in October and November.

**Arenaria interpres.** Turnstone.

The Canche estuary is not suitable for this species ; single birds seen there on 12 May and 3 November.

**Larus canus.** Common Gull.

Odd birds in the Canche estuary on 17 October, and a great increase on the following day ; common there and at Boulogne in October and November.

**Larus argentatus.** Herring-Gull.

Common in the Canche estuary in October and November.

**Larus marinus.** Greater Black-backed Gull.

A few in the Canche estuary on 17 October, and many on the following day ; in large numbers subsequently in October and November, especially on the big sandbank at the river mouth ; some in the estuary at the end of July 1918.

**Larus fuscus.** Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Many in October and November in the Canche estuary and at Boulogne ; some at any rate were *L. fuscus affinis*.

**Larus ridibundus.** Black-headed Gull.

Only occasionally seen inland : two at Péronne on 17 April ; one at Flixecourt, near Amiens, on 4 July ; three at Gorre on the La Bassée Canal on 7 January ; twenty over Adinfer Wood, south of Arras, on 23 March, 1918.

Common in the Canche estuary in October and November, and July 1918.

**Hydrochelidon nigra.** Black Tern.

On 31 July, 1918, I saw one resting at the edge of the channel in the Canche estuary at low tide ; after a time it began to feed, flying slowly down stream against a light breeze, dipping down to and sometimes touching the water, and then flying quickly back up stream to its starting-place ;

I could not tell what it was feeding on, as I could see no flies. It was in almost full breeding-plumage.

**Alle alle.** Little Auk.

One in the harbour at Boulogne on 5 December, swimming just below the bridge; it rose from the water, flew up to the bridge and then out towards the sea.

**Colymbus arcticus.** Black-throated Diver.

On 25 October, after a strong south-west gale, there was a bird swimming in the channel of the Canche estuary. As it was low tide I was able to get within a few yards of it; the throat and face were still black.

**Podiceps ? sp.**

On 9 November there was a small grebe in unusual plumage in the channel of the Canche estuary which I could not identify satisfactorily.

**Podiceps fluviatilis.** Little Grebe.

Not uncommon on the river Somme in various places; many on the water by Péronne citadel and round the city in April. On 21 October there was one on a small pool among the sand-dunes on the north of the Canche estuary; also in the Forêt d'Hardelot near Boulogne.

**Crex crex.** Corn-Crake.

Fairly common in the east of Somme round Beaucamp, Trescault, and Havrincourt Wood (where it was in the felled part of the wood where the old trees lay) in the long grass round the firing-line.

**Gallinula chloropus.** Moor-Hen.

Fairly common on the river Somme. On 21 October, on a small pool in the sand-dunes north of the Canche estuary.

**Fulica atra.** Coot.

Most abundant in all parts of the river Somme; on a pool in the Forêt d'Hardelot.

*Columba œnas.* Stock-Dove.

Only seen at Brie on the river Somme on 26 April.

*Columba palumbus.* Wood-Pigeon.

Common throughout, though never in large numbers; often about the firing-line in front of Havrincourt Wood.

*Streptopelia turtur.* Turtle-Dove.

Common in Somme in many places. On 18 May in an orchard at Roisel I found a pair at an early nest in a felled apple-tree; the trunk of the tree had not been completely cut through and the branches were in leaf. Last heard in Logeast Wood, near Achiet le Grand, on 9 September.

*Phasianus colchicus.* Pheasant.

Very uncommon: I saw it only near Abbéville. I was told of several round Festubert and other places near Béthune, but did not see them myself.

*Perdix perdix.* Partridge.

Fairly common throughout Somme and also in the La Bassée sector, where it was often seen about the line and gave good practice for successful rifle and Lewis-gun fire into No Man's Land. Very common round Hébuterne in August 1918; on 6 August I saw at least forty in a pack.

*Coturnix coturnix.* Quail.

Common in Somme from May to August; especially numerous in the long grass round the firing-line at Beaucamp, Trescault, and in the felled part of Havrincourt Wood, and in the area behind the line. Numbers at Hébuterne early in August 1918; this area was part of the old devastated area of the first Somme offensive, and the trenches were re-occupied again by us; the hundreds of acres of rough weed-covered ground must have proved a suitable sanctuary for quail and partridges in particular. The quail could be heard calling during "stand to" just before dawn.